

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

C. 1. (previously presented): An image normalization processing system comprising:  
an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain  
image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition  
determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by  
the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data; and

an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including  
receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a  
normalization processing condition for the image based on the image data and normalization  
processing means for carrying out normalization processing using the normalization processing  
condition determined by the receiving side normalization processing condition determining  
means on the image data.

2. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:  
an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain  
image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition  
determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by  
the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data and reduced image  
data generated from the image data by the reading side normalization processing condition  
determining means; and

an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including  
receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

normalization processing condition for the image based on the reduced image data, and  
normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data  
under the normalization processing condition determined by the receiving side normalization  
processing condition determining means.

3. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

C, an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain  
image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition  
determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by  
the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data and the normalization  
processing condition; and

an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including  
normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data  
under the normalization processing condition and condition changing means for changing the  
normalization processing condition; wherein

the normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing  
on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition  
changing means.

4. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain  
image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition  
determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition; and

an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image based on the image data and the parameter, and normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means.

5. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data, reduced image data generated from the image data by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition; and

an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition of the image based on the reduced image data and the parameter, and normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means.

6. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data, the normalization processing condition, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition; and

C an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition and condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition based on the parameter; wherein

the normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition changing means.

7. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data, the normalization processing condition, and reduced image data generated from the image data by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means; and

an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

under the normalization processing condition and condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition based on the reduced image data, wherein

the normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition changing means.

8. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

C, an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data, the normalization processing condition, reduced image data generated from the image data by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition; and

an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition and condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition based on the reduced image data and the parameter, wherein

the normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition changing means.

9. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

C) an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means to obtain normalized image data, and judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, the image reading apparatus outputting the normalized image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be in the predetermined range and outputting the image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be not in the predetermined range; and

image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image based on the image data, and receiving side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means, the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means and the receiving side normalization processing means respectively carrying out the determination of the normalization processing condition and the normalization processing in the case where the image data have been received by the image receiving apparatus.

10. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

***AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111***  
***U. S. Application No. 09/281,969***

C, image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means to obtain normalized image data, and judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, the image reading apparatus outputting the normalized image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be in the predetermined range, and outputting the image data, and reduced image data generated from the image data by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged to be not in the predetermined range; and

image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image based on the reduced image data, and receiving side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means, the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means and the receiving side normalization processing means respectively carrying out the determination of the normalization processing condition and the normalization processing

***AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111***  
***U. S. Application No. 09/281,969***

in the case where the image data and the reduced image data have been received by the image receiving apparatus.

11. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

C, an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means to obtain normalized image data, and judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, the image reading apparatus outputting the normalized image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be in the predetermined range and outputting the image data and the normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be not in the predetermined range; and

image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition, and condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition, wherein

the receiving side normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition



**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

changed by the condition changing means in the case where the image data and the normalization processing condition have been received by the image receiving apparatus.

12. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

C、 an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means to obtain normalized image data, and judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, the image reading apparatus outputting the normalized image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be in the predetermined range and outputting the image data and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be not in the predetermined range; and

image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image based on the image data and the parameter, and receiving side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means, the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means and the receiving side normalization processing means

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

respectively carrying out the determination of the normalization processing condition and the normalization processing in the case where the image data and the parameter have been received by the image receiving apparatus.

13. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

C、  
an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means to obtain normalized image data, and judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, the image reading apparatus outputting the normalized image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be in the predetermined range and outputting the image data, reduced image data generated from the image data by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be not in the predetermined range; and

image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image based on the reduced image data and the parameter, and receiving side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means, the receiving side normalization processing condition determining means and the receiving side normalization processing means respectively carrying out the determination of the normalization processing condition and the normalization processing in the case where the image data, the reduced image data, and the parameter have been received by the image receiving apparatus.

14. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

C、 an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the normalization processing condition determining means to obtain normalized image data, and judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, the image reading apparatus outputting the normalized image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be in the predetermined range and outputting the image data, the normalization processing condition, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be not in the predetermined range; and

image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

image data under the normalization processing condition, and condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition based on the parameter, wherein

the receiving side normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition changing means in the case where the image data, the normalization processing condition, and the parameter have been received by the image receiving apparatus.

15. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

C, an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the normalization processing condition determining means to obtain normalized image data, and judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, the image reading apparatus outputting the normalized image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be in the predetermined range and outputting the image data, the normalization processing condition, and reduced image data generated from the image data by the normalization processing condition determining means in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged to be not in the predetermined range by the judging means; and

image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

image data under the normalization processing condition and condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition based on the reduced image data, wherein

the receiving side normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition changing means in the case where the image data, the normalization processing condition, and the reduced image data have been received by the image receiving apparatus.

16. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

C  
an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition determined by the normalization processing condition determining means to obtain normalized image data, and judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, the image reading apparatus outputting the normalized image data in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged to be in the predetermined range by the judging means and outputting the image data, the normalization processing condition, reduced image data generated from the image data by the normalization processing condition determining means, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged by the judging means to be not in the predetermined range; and

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition and condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition based on the reduced image data and the parameter, wherein

the receiving side normalization processing means is capable of carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition changed by the condition changing means in the case where the image data, the normalization processing condition, the reduced image data, and the parameter have been received by the image receiving apparatus.

C\ 17. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image, reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a first normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, and reading side normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data, the image reading apparatus outputting reduced image data generated from the image data by the reading side normalization processing condition determining means; and

an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including receiving side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a second normalization processing condition based on the reduced image data, wherein

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

the second normalization processing condition is output to the image reading apparatus and the reading side normalization processing means carries out normalization processing on the image data under the second normalization processing condition to obtain normalized image data to be output to the image receiving apparatus.

18. (original): An image normalization processing system comprising:

an image reading apparatus including reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and reading side normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, the image reading apparatus outputting the image data and the normalization processing condition; and

C、 an image receiving apparatus connected to the image reading apparatus and including judging means for judging whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range, normalization processing means for carrying out normalization processing on the image data under the normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged to be in the predetermined range, and canceling means for canceling the normalization processing by the normalization processing means under the normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing condition has been judged to be not in the predetermined range.

19. (original): An image normalization processing system according to Claim 18 further comprising warning means for issuing a warning in the case where the normalization processing has been canceled by the canceling means.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

20. (original): An image normalization processing system according to Claim 18 further comprising condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition, wherein the normalization processing condition is changed by the condition changing means and the normalization processing means carries out normalization processing on the image data under the changed normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing has been canceled by the canceling means.

C, 21. (original): An image normalization processing system according to Claim 19 further comprising condition changing means for changing the normalization processing condition, wherein the normalization processing condition is changed by the condition changing means and the normalization processing means carries out normalization processing on the image data under the changed normalization processing condition in the case where the normalization processing has been canceled by the canceling means.

22. (canceled).

23. (previously presented): An image output method wherein an image reading apparatus, comprising reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, outputs the image data to an image receiving apparatus; wherein,

in addition to the image data, at least one of the normalization processing condition, reduced image data generated from the image data by the normalization processing condition determining means, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition are output to the image receiving apparatus.



**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U. S. Application No. 09/281,969**

24. (previously presented): An image output method wherein an image reading apparatus, comprising reading means for reading an image to obtain image data representing the image and normalization processing condition determining means for determining a normalization processing condition for the image read by the reading means, outputs the image data to an image receiving apparatus;

wherein whether or not the normalization processing condition is within a predetermined range is judged and

in addition to the image data, at least one of the normalization processing condition, reduced image data generated from the image data by the normalization processing condition determining means, and a parameter for determining the normalization processing condition are output to the image receiving apparatus when the normalization processing condition is not within the predetermined range.

C、 25. (previously presented): The image normalization processing system of claim 1, wherein the image read by the reading means is a radiation image stored on a stimuable phosphor sheet.

26. (previously presented): The image normalization processing system of claim 2, wherein the image read by the reading means is a radiation image stored on a stimuable phosphor sheet.

27. (previously presented): The image normalization processing system of claim 3, wherein the image read by the reading means is a radiation image stored on a stimuable phosphor sheet.

***AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111***  
***U. S. Application No. 09/281,969***

28. (previously presented): The image normalization processing system of claim 4, wherein the image read by the reading means is a radiation image stored on a stimuable phosphor sheet.

29. (previously presented): The image normalization processing system of claim 6, wherein the image read by the reading means is a radiation image stored on a stimuable phosphor sheet.

30. (previously presented): The image output method of claim 23, wherein the image read by the reading means is a radiation image stored on a stimuable phosphor sheet.

31. (new): The image normalization processing system of claim 3, wherein the normalization processing condition determined on the reading side is capable of being directly used for normalization processing.

32. (new): The image normalization processing system of claim 4, wherein the normalization processing condition determined on the reading side is capable of being directly used for normalization processing.

---